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M A R L O W
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1955

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ANNUAL REPORT
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
1955

Medical Officer of Health:

A.J. Muir, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

(Also Medical Officer of Health, Wycombe Rural District and High Wycombe Borough: Area and Divisional School Medical Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

R. Handy, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

(Also Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Wycombe Rural District and High Wycombe Borough: Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council).

Sanitary Inspectors:

T.H. Jackson, M.R.S.I. A.M.I. San. E. (Surveyor & Chief Sanitary Inspector)

A.A. Whiting, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H. A.M.I.San.E.

R. Pulford, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk/Technical Assistant:

E. Page.

Clerk/Typist:

Mrs A.L. Nunn.



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28, High Street,
High Wycombe,
Bucks.

October, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of
Marlow Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1955.

The birth rate per 1,000 population rose from 15.7 in 1954 to 17.3 in 1955, the actual increase in live births being 12. The death rate fell from 11.3 to 8.9, 15 fewer deaths than in 1954 occurring in the district. Of these deaths 2 were infants under the age of 1 year. This results in an infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 17.2 - a figure which compares favourably with both the local rate for 1954 (19.2) and the rate for the county as a whole (20).

Over 50% of the deaths were due to disease of the heart and circulation, a further 20% being due to cancer. Tuberculosis caused only one death but 2 new cases were notified. This is one more new case than last year but in view of the small numbers involved such an increase has no statistical significance.

Measles was notified 210 times. At first sight such a number may seem incredible when compared with only 3 notifications in 1954. However, a large outbreak was not unexpected as it is a characteristic of measles that epidemics occur at intervals of approximately 2 years.

The other infectious diseases totalled only 9 notifications among them. These 9 reports included no diphtheria. Poliomyelitis occurred 3 times. The ineptitude of the synonym infantile paralysis is obvious when one notes that 2 of these cases were in persons over 21 years of age and that 2 were non-paralytic.

Whooping-cough was notified only once. It is to be hoped that this last named disease - once a cause of considerable mortality and morbidity may soon be relegated to the category of conditions which the practice of preventive medicine has rendered virtually non-existent.

During the year B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old school children was commenced. All parents with children in the age-group were given the opportunity of having their children done and after preliminary tuberculin testing the negative reactors were vaccinated. Parents were most co-operative. It is hoped that this measure will reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in young adults.

In conclusion I acknowledge with gratitude the willing co-operation of the Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector and his assistants.

A.J. MUIR
Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.....	1,664
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1955..	6,710
No. of inhabited houses on rate book, end of 1955....	2,195
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1955.....	£54,556
Estimated Product of Penny Rate.....	£223

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

BIRTHS.

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	60	53	113
	Illegitimate	1	2	3
	Totals	61	55	116
Still Births	Legitimate	2	0	2
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
	Totals	2	0	2

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population....	17.3
Comparability Factor - Birth Rate.....	0.98
Adjusted local Birth Rate.....	16.94
Birth Rate of England and Wales.....	15.0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 births live and still....	16.8
Still Birth Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 births live and still....	23.2

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	32
		Females	-	28
		Total	-	<u>60</u>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....	8.9
Comparability Factor.....	0.91
Adjusted Local Death Rate.....	8.10
Death Rate of England and Wales.....	11.7
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Marlow Urban District.....	0.15
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Total County.....	0.06

INFANT MORTALITY.

Two infants died under the age of one year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	0	1	1
Illegitimate.....	0	1	1
Totals.....	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

This represents a mortality rate of 16.8 per 1,000 related births, compared with 23.2 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 8.6, compared with a county rate of 15.5.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis..... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes 0

TABLE OF DEATHS.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	0	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	0	0
8. Measles.....	0	0	0
9. Other infectious diseases.....	0	0	0
10. Cancer, stomach.....	0	0	0
11. Cancer, lungs.....	4	2	6
12. Cancer, breast.....	0	0	0
13. Cancer, uterus.....	0	0	0
14. Other cancers.....	3	3	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	0	0	0
16. Diabetes.....	0	0	0
17. Vascular lesions, nervous system..	1	5	6
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	6	5	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease...	1	0	1
20. Other heart diseases.....	7	4	11
21. Other circulatory diseases.....	2	2	4
22. Influenza.....	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia.....	2	2	4
24. Bronchitis.....	2	1	3
25. Other respiratory diseases.....	0	0	0
26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	0	0	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	0	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	0	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	0	0	0

TABLE OF DEATHS. (contd).

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
31. Congenital malformations.....	0	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	1	0	1
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	0	0	0
34. Other accidents.....	0	1	1
35. Suicide.....	1	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war..	0	0	0
All causes....	32	28	60

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and still) births.</u>	
	<u>England and Wales.</u>	<u>Marlow Urban District.</u>
(a) Maternal causes, excluding abortion.....		Nil
(b) Due to abortion.....		Nil
(c) Total maternal mortality...	0.64	Nil

CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

Males.....	7
Females.....	5
Total.....	<u>12</u>

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1955.....	16
1954.....	16
1953.....	14
1952.....	10
1951.....	13
1950.....	16
1949.....	16

The following organs were affected:-

Stomach.....	0
Lungs.....	6
Breast.....	0
Uterus.....	0
Other Sites.....	6
Total.....	<u>12</u>

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....	0.15
Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.15
Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.00
Total Deaths - Respiratory (Excluding Tuberculosis)	7
Respiratory Death Rate (Excluding Tuberculosis)....	1.16

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1955.

District	Population Census 1951	Registrar General's estimated Population Mid-1955.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population.	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births.
Bucks County	386,164	410,400	15.4	9.8	0.06	20.0	15.5	0.31
Total Urban	193,168	202,400	15.3	9.5	0.07	18.1	14.2	0.00
Total Rural	192,996	208,000	15.5	10.0	0.04	21.7	16.8	0.61
Marlow Urban	6,480	6,710	17.2	8.9	0.15	17.2	8.6	0.00

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1955.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age Periods							
		Under 1 year	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+	Age Un- known.
Scarlet Fever	4		1	1	1	1			
Whooping Cough	1	1							
Acute Poliomyelitis	1			1					
Paralytic	2						1	1	
Non-Paralytic									
Measles	210	7	44	69	177	7	2	2	2
Diphtheria	Nil								
Acute Pneumonia	1							1	
Dysentery	Nil								
Smallpox	Nil								
Acute Encephalitis:	Nil								
Infective	Nil								
Post-Infectious	Nil								
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Nil								
Paratyphoid Fevers	Nil								
Erysipelas	Nil								
Meningococcal Infection	Nil								
Food Poisoning	NIL								
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil								
Totals:	219	7	46	71	178	8	3	4	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1955.

(a)

(b)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10	1							
15								
25								
35								
45	1							
55					1			
65+								
Totals	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation against diphtheria (and, where desirable, whooping-cough), continues to be carried out in schools and the Infant Welfare Centre in your District, the arrangements being made by the County Council. It is also possible for parents to arrange for this to be done by their own doctors. Records of immunisation are kept at the County Offices.

During the year 102 children were immunised against diphtheria and 90 against whooping-cough. 139 children received reinforcing doses against diphtheria.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

During the year 50 primary vaccinations and 9 re-vaccinations were carried out.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The Ambulance arrangements for your District, made under proposals submitted by the County Council in accordance with Section 27 of the National Health Service Act (1946) and approved by the Ministry of Health are continuing to give satisfactory service. The ambulance station is situated in High Wycombe and the premises are up to date and well equipped. Ambulances are under radio control.

HOSPITALS.

The available Hospitals in the District are the Metropolitan Hospitals; The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading; and the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor. In addition there are the Marlow Cottage Hospital and the War Memorial Hospital at High Wycombe.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

Section 47 - No formal action

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The laboratory facilities of the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford, are available for all investigations carried out on behalf of the Council. Arrangements are made direct with the Laboratory for the transport of material.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply of the district comes from deep wells owned by the Marlow Water Company. The supply is adequate and samples are taken regularly for bacteriological examination.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.

Council Offices,
Court Garden,
Marlow.

To the Chairman and Members of
Marlow Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Gentlemen,

I submit my annual report for the year 1955, for
inclusion with that of the Medical Officer of Health.

The year has been a difficult one, in particular
respect to the efficient maintenance of routine administra-
tion with the general shortage of skilled and unskilled
labour, and I submit that a great deal of credit is due to
the General Foreman and his small labour force that
essential services have been maintained efficiently, and
amenity services have steadily improved.

The continued support and confidence you have given
to me is of the utmost importance to efficiency, and I
take this opportunity of thanking all members for their
advice and guidance on many matters, and in particular
for their bold, wise and immediate attack on slum clearance
procedure. The first clearance area was declared within
four months of the Minister's starting date.

I also wish to express my thanks to the Council's
officers on my staff for their loyal and energetic work, to
the Medical Officer for his advice and support, and to the
Clerk and Financial Officer for their usual co-operation
and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS H. JACKSON.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL SANITATION

Nature of Visit.

Inspection.

Drainage.....	77
Places of entertainment.....	1
Pet Shop.....	1
Stables and Piggeries.....	4
Tents, vans and sheds.....	2
Public Conveniences.....	6
Licensed premises.....	16
Rodent control.....	105
Atmospheric pollution.....	1
Building Byelaw sites.....	63
Verminous premises.....	4
Re-visits.....	4
Refuse collection.....	1
Refuse disposal.....	34
Infectious disease enquiries.....	9
Re-visits.....	3
Miscellaneous infectious diseases...	19
Miscellaneous sanitary visits.....	110
Council sites.....	8
Agents etc.....	12

HOUSING.

	<u>Number of</u> <u>houses inspected.</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>of visits</u>
Public Health Act 1936.....	38	95
Housing Act, 1936.....	162	82
Overcrowding.....		1

Total inspections for the year were 1,805.

ARTICLE 31, HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS 1925.

1.	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....	1
2.	The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officer.....	12
3.	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to	
	(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works.....	8
	(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	Nil
4.	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.....	8
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after serving of formal notices.....	7
6.	The number of demolition or closing orders made.	Nil
7.	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under the sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930.....	1
8.	The number of houses demolished.....	1

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

<u>Number of Informal Notices.</u>	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Complied with</u>
Served under Public Health Act, 1936..	14	12
Served under Food & Drugs Act, 1938...	1	1

<u>Formal Notices.</u>	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Complied with.</u>	<u>Not com- plied with.</u>	<u>In pro- gress.</u>
<u>Public Health Act 1936:</u>				
Section 93.....	8	7	-	1
Section 138.....	1	1	-	-
Section 277.....	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Housing Act:</u>				
Section 11.....	-	-	-	-
<u>Food & Drugs Act, 1938:</u>				
Section 13.....	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Factories Act 1937:</u>				
Section 7.....	Nil	-	-	-
Section 34.....	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Milk & Dairies Regulations</u>	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Prevention Of Damage by Pests Act:</u>				
Section 4.....	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Shops Act 1950</u>	1	1	-	-

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTIONS.

The table on Page 17 represents the amount of cattle and meat inspected during the year. It will be noted that there has been some decrease in the amount of kill of cattle and sheep, but greater increases in the numbers of calves and pigs. The amount of time required to carry out inspection is two full days weekly plus short daily visits on other days of the week.

It is interesting to note on the table the various percentages of reasons for meat condemnations, in particular that from parasitic causes.

MEAT.

Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	364	118	526	1,433 Also	2,111
Number inspected	364	118	526	1,433 ³ Goats	2,111
Tuberculosis: Whole carcase	2	2	-	-	2
Part or organ	24	15	-	-	28
Percentage affected	7.1	14.4	-	-	1.4
Parasitic causes: Whole carcase	-	-	-	1	-
Part or organ	96	28	-	121	82
Percentage affected	26.4	23.7	-	8.5	3.9
Other diseases Whole carcase	-	-	1	17	3
and causes i.e					
including	23	20	2	7	39
injury, imma-					
turity and					
old age.	6.3	16.9	0.6	1.7	1.9
Cysticercosis: One case of degenerate cysticercus bovis was found in a heifer.					

These figures represent a total carcase weight condemned of 1 ton, 15 cwts. 3 qrs. 9 lbs. and weight of offal 1 ton. 17 cwts. 10 lbs.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS - FOOD PREMISES.

<u>Type of premises.</u>	<u>Number in District.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Dairies and Milk Distributors.	6	19
Butchers shops.....	7	65
Food preparing premises.....	12	44
Bakehouses.....	2	4
Food stores including:		
Fishmongers and Poulterers.. }		
Greengrocers and Fruiterers.. }	37	60
Street Vendors and Hawkers.. }		
Ice-cream premises.....	16	16
Restaurants.....	11	10
Slaughterhouses.....	1	564
Milk samples - 4		
Water samples - 2		
Miscellaneous food visits - 7		

FACTORIES ETC.

Factories (power).....	30	17
Factories (non-power).....	5	1
Shops.....	122	134

MILK SUPPLIES.

Routine inspections have been regularly made to five milk distributors and one dairy in the district, and a continuance of reasonable standards of dairy methods was noted.

OTHER FOODS.

Condemnation.

During the year the following foodstuffs were surrendered for a total of 47 tins including:-

Fruit 10: Meat 25: Vegetables 5: Milk 3:
Fish 4: Meat 254 lbs: Fresh fish 4 st. 8 lbs:
Cheese 6 lbs: Sausages 39 lbs: Tomatoes 12 lbs.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Sewage Disposal Works.

The walls of all primary and secondary filters have been rebuilt and filter media replaced and renewed. A system of re-circulation has been introduced and is almost completed. It must be reported that the present sludge beds are choked and inefficient and the consultant engineers have been instructed to prepare a scheme for sludge disposal to submit to the Minister.

Minimum discharge..... 192,200 gallons.

Maximum discharge..... 457,000 "

Sewers and House Drainage.

- (i) During the year all sewer lengths and manholes in Riverwood Drive, Gossmore Lane, Mill Lane and Field-house Lane have been subjected to a severe water test in an endeavour to find the cause for the surcharging of the sewers in that area during flood periods.

All manholes and sewer lengths with the exception of one length of 6" cast iron pipe and two shallower lengths of glazed stoneware pipe were proved to withstand the tests. The defective lengths will be dealt with during 1956.

- (ii) A length of glazed stoneware sewer was found to be defective near the Marlow Water Company's boreholes and in view of the impossibility of uncovering the length with mechanical plant due to other services crossing and re-crossing it in many places, an experiment was carried out successfully of inserting and threading through the existing pipe, 4 ft lengths of pitch fibre pipes properly jointed. The resultant cost for the approximate 200 ft length was £120, including material, compared with an estimated cost of £500 for excavation only by traditional methods. The time taken was approximately six working hours only for two men.

Sewers and House Drainage.(contd)

Although the method has obviously a limited application, it may well be an economic method of dealing with the defects mentioned in the previous paragraph.

RAINFALL.

The rainfall total for the year 1955 are as follows:-

January.....	2.345	inches.
February.....	1.33	"
March.....	0.98	"
April.....	0.99	"
May.....	3.672	"
June.....	2.12	"
July.....	0.11	"
August.....	0.755	"
September.....	2.135	"
October.....	2.71	"
November.....	1.136	"
December.....	2.205	"

The highest daily rainfall in one day was on the 23rd September, 1955, with 1.04 inches.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

One hundred and fifteen plans deposited for approval under the Council's Building Byelaws were dealt with, the sites and construction of the properties inspected, sewer connection and drainage work supervised and tested. All complaints have been investigated, and when coming within the scope of the Public Health Act or other Acts they have been suitably dealt with, and the Sanitary Inspector's record and diary completed.

One hundred and twenty-eight applications under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, were dealt with and maps and records have been kept up to date:-

Approved.....	36
Conditionally approved....	69
Refused.....	17
Withdrawn.....	6

Thirty-eight private houses have been completed during the year.

FACTORIES, WORK-PLACES AND SHOPS.

All power and non-power factories have been inspected during the year and minor faults remedied.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(a) Collection.

The collection of refuse has continued in a satisfactory manner and it has been possible to maintain a weekly house-to-house collection as the new estates have not developed as rapidly as was expected last year. The limit has nearly been reached to the output of one vehicle and gang, and by 1957 it is expected that an increase in labour and vehicles will be required as an alternative to a kerb-side collection.

(b) Disposal.

Disposal of refuse in the confined urban district is increasingly difficult.

Consideration is being given to the disposal of refuse in wet gravel pits.

(c) Salvage Collection.

The following figures represent salvage collections and receipts for the year which follow the general trend of a reduction in this form of collection and the market prices of materials:-

Waste paper	2 tons. 17 cwts.	£18.10.6.
Scrap iron	5 " 16 " 7 qrs.	£26. 5 3.
Brass and lead	5 cwts. 16 qrs. 12 lbs.	£30.18.2.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

(a) Construction and sites.

The estate layout and sewers were constructed for 56 houses and 30 houses were commenced. Supervision of the estate has been carried out by an additional officer appointed as Deputy Surveyor.

(b) Maintenance of Council Houses.

Funds were not available during the year to improve the amenities of pre-war Council houses but it is hoped that during 1956 some improvement can be carried out.

(c) Slum clearance.

The report to the Minister was submitted before July 1st and included approximately 100 houses to be dealt with under slum clearance within 5 years.

A survey and report was prepared and the Medical Officer of Health submitted his proposals for Clearance Area No 1, which was accepted and declared by the Council.

RODENT CONTROL.

The table on Page 23 shows the degree of infestation and records of control in the area.

During the year the Rodent Operator also dealt with the following infestations:-

11 Wasps nests, 7 ants nests and 2 complaints of cockroaches.

HIGHWAYS.

Normal maintenance and repairs have been carried out to footpaths and carriageways and approximately 6,000 yards of granite chippings surface dressing was done very successfully by the Council's labour at a cost of 11d per yard super.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE.

Daily, weekly and monthly maintenance to vehicles is carried out and suitable records are kept.

DEPOTS AND STORES.

Further works of minor improvements with available funds have been carried out to the garages and store accommodation at the Council's Depot.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

	Type of Property			All other (including Business & Industrial	Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural		
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	9	2,060	Nil	410	2,479
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1955 as a result of (a) notification or (b) otherwise	(a) 3	86	Nil	13	102
	(b) 6	35	Nil	73	114
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major 2	2	Nil	Nil	4
	Minor 7	77	Nil	10	94
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by mice	Major -	4	Nil	-	4
	Minor 1	38	Nil	3	42
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	9	121	Nil	13	154
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:- (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (I.E. Proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

